

**Before The  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Federal-State Joint Board	)	CC Docket No. 96-45
On Universal Service	)	
	)	
Lifeline and Link-Up	)	WC Docket 03-109
	)	

To: The Commission

**PETITION OF CELLULAR SOUTH LICENSES, INC. FOR DESIGNATION AS  
A TEMPORARY ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER TO  
PROVIDE KATRINA LIFELINE ASSISTANCE**

Cellular South Licenses, Inc. (“Cellular South”), hereby submits this petition for designation as a temporary Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) for the purpose of providing assistance to qualified customers affected by Hurricane Katrina, pursuant to the special procedures established by the Commission in its *Order In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96045, FCC 05-178, (rel. October 14, 2005) (“Katrina Order”).

In the Katrina Order, the Commission adopted, pursuant to Section 10(a), forbearance authority, temporary modifications to its low income program rules to allow carriers, on a voluntary basis, to provide service via its low-income programs to victims of Hurricane Katrina. Cellular South has been a longtime provider of Commercial Mobile Radio Service (“CMRS”) throughout the Gulf region. Although Cellular South is already an ETC throughout the state of Mississippi and in various parts of southern

Alabama, Cellular South seeks temporary ETC designation on a nationwide basis so that Cellular South can assist customers displaced from the Gulf region to areas outside of Cellular South's ETC designated service area.

Cellular South requests approval to provide the following service offering to eligible subscribers consistent with the Katrina Order:

- Those individuals that are not already customers of Cellular South, will receive, upon verification of eligibility, a free phone and 300 nationwide minutes at no cost. There will be no contract and the customer is under no obligation to continue service with Cellular South after the minutes have been exhausted. The available minutes will expire in 120 days or whenever the 300 minutes has been exhausted.
- Existing Cellular South subscribers, will receive, upon verification of eligibility, a \$130 bill credit. Depending upon the rate plan that credit could translate to as much as 1,500 minutes of nationwide airtime and unlimited local usage.

Cellular South will undertake efforts to ensure that Hurricane Katrina victims have the opportunity to obtain wireless Lifeline services through various types of advertising. Cellular South will have the Katrina Lifeline packages available in all of its retail locations. Cellular South will also advertise the availability of this service in local newspapers and in areas outside of its licensed service area where displaced customers have relocated, via its website at <http://www.cellularsouth.com>. Existing subscribers will be contacted through direct marketing efforts, including bill messages.

The Katrina Order requires eligible consumers to provide documentary evidence to their Lifeline carrier that FEMA has determined that they are eligible for disaster housing assistance.<sup>1</sup> In an effort to prevent fraud and in order to comply with the Commission's certification and verification requirements, Cellular South will utilize the attached Hurricane Katrina Lifeline Program Enrollment Form (See Exhibit 1) to sign up lifeline customers under this program. As indicated on the enrollment form, customers must certify under penalty of perjury that they meet the following requirements: (1) on August 29, 2005, the consumer was a resident of one of the counties designated by FEMA as eligible for individual housing assistance related to Hurricane Katrina - For Mississippi, these are: Adams, Amite, Attala, Claiborne, Choctaw, Clarke, Copiah, Covington, Forrest, Franklin, George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Hinds, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Jones, Kemper, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Leake, Lincoln, Lowndes, Madison, Marion, Neshoba, Newton, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Pearl River, Perry, Pike, Rankin, Scott, Simpson, Smith, Stone, Walthall, Warren, Wayne, Wilkinson, Winston, and Yazoo Counties and for Alabama, these are: Baldwin, Marengo, Mobile, Pickens, Greene, Hale, Tuscaloosa, and Washington Counties; (2) the consumer has a letter from FEMA granting him/her a cash award relating to Hurricane Katrina. The cash MUST be for individual housing disaster assistance with no obligation of repayment. Types of eligible housing assistance include:

- Lodging expenses reimbursement (for a hotel or motel)
- Rental assistance (cash payment for a temporary rental unit or a manufactured home)
- Home repair cash grant
- Home replacement cash grant
- Permanent housing construction

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<sup>1</sup> Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Order, CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 02-6, WC Docet Nos. 02-60, 03-109, FCC 05-178 (rel. October 14, 2005), para 17.

(3) the consumer is head of his/her household; and, (4) the Cellular South phone for which the consumer is applying is the ONLY Hurricane Katrina Lifeline package that the consumer has received from Cellular South or any other carrier.

Based upon the requirements of the Katrina Order, Cellular South respectfully requests that the Commission designate Cellular South as a temporary ETC, as described herein, pursuant to the terms of the Katrina Order.

Respectfully submitted,

**CELLULAR SOUTH LICENSES, INC.**



By: \_\_\_\_\_

David A. LaFuria

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Its Counsel

November 17, 2005

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Donna Brown, certify that the foregoing **PETITION OF CELLULAR SOUTH LICENSES, INC. FOR DESIGNATION AS A TEMPORARY ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER TO PROVIDE KATRINA LIFELINE ASSISTANCE**, was served on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2005, by U.S. Mail on:

Thomas Navin, Chief  
Wireline Competition Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street S.W.  
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Narda Jones, Chief  
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\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Donna Brown